

# DV

## Desert Voice Magazine

Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

October 11, 2006

**HEAT:**  
Building more trainers  
improves readiness





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Ryan Thurston, a Forward Repair Activity worker cuts a HMMWV cab to be made into a HEAT simulator.

Photo by Sgt. Carlos M. Burger

## The Power of One, the Power of Many

You can *Make a World of Difference* through the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas



Is it possible for one person to help cure cancer? How about feed a city's homeless? Provide an education for a refugee in a developing country? Save an endangered species? Is it possible for one person to truly *Make a World of Difference*? With the 2006 CFC-O, the answer is yes.

Since the start of October, all U.S. service members and Department of Defense civilians serving our country overseas, have the opportunity to demonstrate the power of one. The campaign will last through Dec. 1. Through the 2006 CFC-O, you may choose from nearly 1,900 participating charities to be the recipient of your contribution.

Please see you local CFC-O representative, for more information on how to give go to their Web site at [www.cfcoverseas.org](http://www.cfcoverseas.org).

## The Kuwait theater point of contact for CFC-O is Lt. Col Linda Eriksen at DSN 430-6320

### Q: Who can contribute to CFC-O?

A: All U.S. government personnel serving overseas, military or civilian, may participate in the campaign. DoD contractors and foreign nationals employed by the United States may also give.

### Q: Is there a minimum or maximum payroll deduction gift one can donate through CFC-O?

A: The minimum gift for military personnel and civilians is \$1 per pay period. There is no maximum gift. All gifts are welcome.

### Q: Will local currency be accepted?

A: Yes, foreign national money can be given. However, the Keyperson or CAPO then has to convert it to U.S. dollars in the form of a money order before sending it to the CFC-O.

### Q: Can a retiree who wants to give do so through payroll deduction?

A: At this time, a federal retiree may make a one-time contribution to the CFC by cash or check. However, retirees can not be solicited but are to be provided with the opportunity to give should they wish to do so.

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# Professionalism, cohesion provide backbone for Navy EOD unit

Story and photo by

**Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes**  
**Desert Voice Editor**

Many Americans take a traditional form of transportation to work such as a car, bus or train. But for a seven-man Navy unit in Southwest Asia their way of getting to work means possibly donning a 75-pound bomb suit, diving or using a parachute to get to the job site.

The unit is U.S. Navy Reserve's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 10 out of Fort Story, Va. The unit works as an USARCENT EOD team in Kuwait. Their mission consists of vetting all piers and boats before U.S. ships enter a harbor, rendering safe improvised explosive devices, disposing of unexploded ordnance and anti-terrorism/force protection.

Although the ride to the job site may change and the mission itself varies, there is one common theme that remains constant – unit cohesion. “You’re a team with the job but you’re a family [24 hours a day, seven days a week],” said Chief Petty Officer Kelly Davis, one of two EOD technicians with EODMU 10.

Davis said the tight bond the unit has starts with the initial training the Sailors go through. “The common misery of school creates that bond,” added Davis.

The school, or pipeline, consists of more than seven months at EOD school, more than 40 days at diving school and a short three weeks at airborne school.

Davis said all the courses have a certain “pain” to get through. He continued by saying the pain results in an approximate 3 percent graduation success rate for all three schools.

The pain is a small price to pay for the professionalism of these Sailors. This is the “greatest job in the world filled with a bunch of professional people,” said Davis. “I get to stay eternally young doing my job.”

Petty Officer 1st Class Bryan Williams said “I like the work. I like the people.” Williams spent approximately 11 years in the active duty ranks before joining the Navy Reserve. The EOD technician said the divers within the unit support the mission as EOD assistants. The divers have been trained to look for IEDs but do not have the ability to render them safe.

The unit’s five divers have more than 3,000 minutes under the water since they arrived in theater this past April. Senior Chief Petty Officer Sean McLaren, officer in charge of the unit, said the water here in Southwest Asia is heaven. McLaren is used to diving in the United States’ eastern waters where he said it’s “black water” diving. The water is filled with so much dirt and mud that the water has become permanently black.

Although the Sailors don’t have to contend with black water here, they do dive at night. Chief Petty Officer Gary Kuammen said night diving is like taking a simple task of tying one’s shoes and turning the lights off. The task becomes dif-

ficult when you’re under water with all your equipment and can’t see.

Whether the dive is risky or the ordnance disposal is large, the EODMU 10 Sailors continue to depend on each other, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Hickling.

“We’re having fun doing this,” said Chief Petty Officer Jeff Cooney. “We’re much smarter coming out of this than we were going in.”

“We all have strengths and weaknesses,” McLaren said. “We’re like brothers.”



Chief Petty Officer Jeff Cooney (left) and Chief Petty Officer John Dzierzewski drape an orange cover over the front of their boat during a recent training exercise.

# Capturing history one shot at a time

## Combat camera provides historical reference

**Spc. Debrah Robertson**  
**Desert Voice Staff Writer**

Men hurl themselves over the berm and into the battles of the U.S. Civil War. Soldiers trudge through the waters of Normandy and onto the beaches to fight and defeat the Nazis in WWII. General Patton leads Third Army into the Battle of the Bulge and comes out victorious. Waves of paratroopers land in the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden in Sept. 1944. Marines march through the Persian Gulf and on to success in Desert Storm.

From Matthew Brady's documentations of the aftermath of the Civil War's most celebrated battles to Americans building statues and monuments to a single moment caught on Joe Rosenthal's camera during the battle of Iwo Jima, Americans have been witness to the nation's most important battles.

Today, the men and women of combat camera, like Staff Sgt. Vincent King and Sgt. 1st Class Stuart Stahl of HHC, 160th Signal Brigade document the events of both war and peace for the U.S. military. Their talent is essential to strategic battlefield planning and training of their fellow servicemembers, said Army Sgt. Maj. Scott Freire, G3 Sergeant Major of the 335th Theater Signal Command.

Both combat cameramen and war photographers have been documenting the events of war since the invention of the camera, said Freire, but now combat cameramen are more formally trained in the study of both still imagery and video.

Along with the pictures embedded media have taken, combat camera's images chronicle wars from Vietnam to Operation Iraqi Freedom and can be seen by countless individuals.

Although, civilian photographers embed with units alongside combat cameramen, only combat cameramen are trained to fight the battles they must also capture on film. Therefore they must be versatile, said Stahl, the noncommissioned officer of the Brigade Communication Control Center.

"We are attached to [units such as] Special Forces to document the good things the military is doing, showing that not [everything about war] is bad," said King, a combat documentation and production specialist, "[and our work also] serves as a good tool for after action reviews so future commanders and current leaders can better access what they need to do."

"We are [combat] mul-



*Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Stuart Stahl*

Staff Sgt. Vincent King, a combat cameraman with HHC, 160th Signal Brigade is captured doing what he does best, taking photographs. Combat cameramen have been capturing the life and work of their fellow servicemembers for decades.





tipliers,” said Freire. Combat cameramen use their skills to help their commanders view the scenes of the battlefield so that they are able to adjust their plans accordingly. They also show America that “we don’t just go in with guns and shoot people. We help rebuild.”

Today’s combat cameramen have expanded upon what the combat cameramen of yesterday started. They now provide visuals that serve other servicemembers as important learning tools, not just motivational images that help with recruiting and tell America’s history to future generations, said Freire.

“The mission hasn’t changed,” said Freire. “The tools have.”

Although the equipment is more advanced and the technology allows photos and video to be distributed within minutes, the hard work and dedication is still there, said Stahl.

The best part of the job is being in the field, training and living with other Soldiers, said Freire.

Combat cameramen attach to units that perform many different missions, therefore they must be able to perform in an array of situations, said King. “You always have to be aware of your environment and know the mission [of the unit you are with].”

The information obtained from the units that the combat cameramen accompany is also used to train their fellow servicemembers back in garrison before they too join the fight in theater, said Freire.

Training is now one of the most important aspects of being a combat cameraman, said King.

Although combat cameramen have expanded upon what their predecessors began decades ago, documenting the events of war still allows them to have a historical reference, said Stahl.

People will be able to view the events that have unfolded in Operation Iraqi Freedom on both moving film and photography, not only as a training tool, but as a connection to America’s past.

Although many of the war images of the past depict battle scenes and camp life, today’s combat cameramen strive to show the world that servicemembers are also helping rebuild the lives of the people they fight to defend, said Freire.

Men like Joe Galloway, a photographer who covered 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, and Robert Capa, the man who captured D-Day in still frames, have their life’s work immortalized in Hollywood films such as “We Were Soldiers” and “Saving Private Ryan.”

Today’s combat cameramen are capable of linking themselves with a multitude of units throughout the Armed Forces, capturing every moment of a servicemember’s life, from the drudgery of a hard day’s work with a young Soldier in the field to the joy of a family reunion with a Marine and his young son. Combat cameramen are the “eyes of the Army,” and therefore, the eyes of the American people.



# Raising the HEAT: Rollover sim

Story and photos by

**Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II**  
**Desert Voice Staff Writer**

**S**ince the campaign in Iraq began, at least 116 Soldiers have been killed and at least 132 injured in HMMWV rollover accidents, according to U.S. Army statistics. The HMMWV Egress Awareness Training simulator, or HEAT, was created with the intent of preventing Soldier injuries and death in HMMWV rollovers. With about 8,000 Soldiers already trained on the simulator, camps across the area of responsibility want to have the simulator as well.

Army Material Command and USARCENT are building more than 30 HEAT simulators to be fielded across the theater

in the months ahead. The HEAT simulators are being constructed by the Forward Repair Activity exclusively on Camp Arifjan, which is a team of over 50 civilians from Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala., and Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas, said Ed Morris, FRA chief.

Morris said Lt. Col John Hermann, AMC support operations officer, coordinated the efforts to have the HEAT trainers built and the reason Camp Arifjan was chosen to undertake this project was because the FRA was the only unit in the AOR that had all the skill sets necessary to complete it.

"We have depot level machinists, welders and mechanics all at one location and those are the skills necessary to build this. There's no worrying about having to deal with outside sources," he said.

The idea of the HEAT simulator was originally created by Chief Warrant Officer Rikki Cox who is also with the FRA, said Chris Turner, a welder from Anniston depot.

The construction of the HEAT is a team effort, he said. It takes a grand total of four days to make one and it's built from ground up with spare parts and damaged HMMWVs. The front and rear ends are cut off and the HMMWV cab is then fused to base frame and hooked to an electric motor.

Two other team members, Micah Garrett and his partner Corey Jenkins, also from Anniston Depot; sacrifice long hours daily to the completion of the HEAT simulators. Both are responsible for the overall assembly of the base frame, sometimes working



Forward Repair Activity welders Chris Turner and Brandon McDaniel conduct a roll test on the HMMWV Egress Awareness Trainer simulator. More than 30 of the simulators are being constructed in Kuwait.

# Simulator set to deploy across the AOR

16 hour shifts welding and drilling the base frame.

“It’s a new experience being away from my family, but I’m glad to be here. I feel good about what I do. I feel that I’m helping the Soldier in some way,” said the 22-year-old Garrett, an Alpine, Ala., native.

Jenkins, a Mumford, Ala., native and former Soldier of 10 years, knows what the HEAT is worth to the modern Soldier.

“This simulator is good training for the Soldiers,” he said.

Although the HEAT carries a price tag of about \$33,000 with it, Brandon McDaniel, a heavy mobile equipment repairer from Anniston Depot thinks that its benefit far outweighs its price.

“It’s a good program, it’s saving lives and if it saves one life then it’s worth the money. Anything that we do, whether its putting on body armor or this simulation is worth it if it saves Soldiers on the battlefield,” he said.

The 30 HEATs are scheduled for completion date sometime in October and once they are built, they will be sent to camps in Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar. The HEAT light-weight design allows for air transport, if necessary, Morris said. He also said the FRA is proud of the work they do preparing the simulators and getting them out to Soldiers.

“The team here is really dedicated to this program because of all the potential to save lives. There has been a lot of Soldiers killed in rollover accidents and they put long hours and hard work into building this. It’s a team effort and we know the importance of what we’re doing,” Morris said.

“Since I’ve been here, I’ve had Soldiers come up and thank me and my team for what we do here and that’s a blessing,” Garrett added.



(Top) Ryan Thurston uses a welder to remove the HMMWV front end in preparation for the HEAT simulator. (Right) A FRA welder fuses a frame to a HMMWV cab. The 50-member team is made up of civilians from Anniston and Red River Army Depots.



# Let's get it started

## From an ID card scan to last-minute training, Bu

**Sgt. Chris Jones**  
**Desert Voice staff writer**

**O**n this day, it all starts with Spc. Jose Hernandez.

A unit of military policemen arrive, heavy-eyed from nearly a full day of travel from Kansas. During a briefing introducing them to Kuwait, they hand off their military identification cards and Hernandez swipes them into his computer.

The MPs have now begun their deployment. Their combat pay

will soon kick in, and they can now begin tracking days past and days ahead.

"People will say 'thank you,' because we get them paid, and they know that now they have finally started the deployment," said Hernandez, a native of Sacramento, Calif.

Camp Buehring, Kuwait, is the staging ground for deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and to other parts of Kuwait. When servicemembers arrive here, the personnel services battalion at Buehring works tirelessly to make the induction as

quick and painless as possible.

"The first thing we do is give them a break," says Hernandez. "They've been on a bus for about three hours

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**"It's a little bit crazy, because everyone is confused when they first get here."**

**- Spc. Sherrard Simon**

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and a plane ride for who knows how



Photos by Sgt. Thomas Day

Sgt. Kasey Schmidt explains to a group of Soldiers new to theater where they will receive their briefing.



# Buehring unit gets deployments off and running

long, so they'll need it."

Hernandez is a member of the 40th Personnel Services Detachment of the California National Guard. His unit is preparing to relieve Detachment C of the 55th Personnel Services Battalion, an active duty unit out of Friedberg, Germany.

After scanning their ID cards, servicemembers are usually given the following day off, before beginning training at Buehring and nearby Udairi Range.

While at Buehring, troops receive a wide range of training. Some training takes place at Buehring, such as improvised explosive device awareness and Military Operations on Urban Terrain, commonly known as MOUT. Other training is performed at Udairi, a nearby range.

For Sgt. Jerry Delancey, non-commissioned officer of training for the 55th, training at Buehring can get congested during the surge months. Because of all the servicemembers coming into Kuwait, he has to work his training schedule around those entering theater.

"During the 'surge,' we try to just squeeze into the training when we can, because [incoming personnel] are priority," said Delancey, a native of Enterprise, Ala.

Although the first priority for the inprocessing team is to get servicemembers in theater so they can begin training, they also offer personnel services to the incoming units.

Spc. Sherrard Simon, team leader for promotions and actions at the PSB, assists incoming personnel by ensuring promotion packets are correct and forwarding them to individuals' garrison units.

"Sometimes they go to the [pro-

motion] board back home or here, and they come to us to get it going," he said.

Simon also contributes to the inprocessing by giving the initial briefing, to welcome servicemem-

bers into theater.

As Hernandez says, "It's a little bit crazy, because everyone is confused when they first get here," he said. "But everyone seems glad to get it started."



Spc. Jose Hernandez hands an information packet to a Soldier at Buehring.



# AMC Battalion bustin' bogies

Story and photos by

**Chuck Sprague**  
**AMC PAO**

"Bogie" is not a golf term in the Camp Arifjan "sandbox," but a vital, technical component of the Army's Heavy Equipment Transport Trailer – it's a 1700-pound four-wheel axel assembly that evenly distributes the massive weight of the Abrams tank to all 40 trailer tires.

The Kuwait Battalion of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade is overhauling more than 500 of these massive bogies, 10 per trailer as part of a five-year maintenance schedule to assure mission support requirements-sustaining the HET fleet in Southwest Asia.

The bogie balances the heavy loads and saves wear and tear on each tire as well as the road surface. These massive trailers are one of a kind and are banned in some U.S. states due to their width. However, the trucks remain a vital combat multiplier in Southwest Asia in supporting the forward warfighter, said Rafael Pedrosa, the supervisor of ground support equipment for ITT Technologies Corporation Systems Division, primary contractor for the battalion's bogie HET rebuild project.

The high-tech axels were designed by the Army so that the trailer can turn in tandem with the front wheels of the HET, making it easier to turn sharp corners. It is described as a "flexible assembly" with its own movement and independent suspension. Teams service the pins, cams, slack adjusters, the "knee joint," and hydraulic hoses; all the components considered part of the bogie, said Pedrosa.

"We know that most of these heavy trailers



An AMC worker pulls one of the 10 bogies from a HET trailer to begin servicing the unit. Each bogie support four wheel assemblies.

have been driven hard under a lot of stress over bad roads with minimal maintenance. Many of the trailers maintenance histories have been lost or misplaced," he said. Frankly, Soldiers and mechanics were spread too thin and just didn't have the time to do the required maintenance due to higher mission priorities."

"We are using Lean Six Sigma principles in an assembly line production. As we see ways to improve our efficiency in breaking down the bogies to the casting for re-build, we incorporated steps or procedures into the operation. If a hydraulic cylinder looks bad at

the first visual inspection, we waste no time in testing it; the cylinder is put in the box for a complete re-build," said Pedrosa.

According to Pedrosa, heat, weight, time and sand also take their toll on the brakes and brake linings. "Annual service doesn't require inspection and work on all of the things we are doing, and it really takes the complete breakdown of the bogie to ensure all of the sub parts are

functional."

## Rust vs. Pin Removal

Rust is the main culprit and cause for service-time delay on the bogie project. Pedrosa smiled as he explained that some of the pins that hold the hydraulic cylinders seem to have "grown" into the pin holders. The pins are usually removed by knocking them out with a sledge hammer, but some are real stubborn.

"We've had to press some of them out using 200 tons of hydraulic pressure before the pin would move. That's the weight of four Abrams tanks stacked on top of each other." The project boss explained that it is physically difficult for mechanics to get to the lubrication point and the grease cert is difficult to see on the trailer.

Even with the problems directly related to rust, the bogie project is about half way complete and the average time spent repairing each bogie has dropped by almost half, from 28 to 16 hours. Eight crews and a couple of supervisors work directly on the bogies 12 hours per day, six days a week. No accidents have occurred at the site, Pedrosa said. The bogies are removed by separate teams and re-installed on trailers at Sun Shade 1, next to the brigade headquarters.

"We have a great team here at Arifjan. We all work together, many different contractors— but all have the same goal; support to the warfighter," Pedrosa concluded.



AMC workers use a sledge hammer to remove the pin holding the hydraulic cylinder.



# Announcement

## Force protection policy requires visible CAC

Beginning Oct. 15, all personnel on U.S. camps in Kuwait will be required to display identification when not in ACU/DCU. All military personnel and Department of Defense civilians will wear their Common Access Cards displayed. Contracted personnel are to wear their installation accessA identifications visibly displayed.

It can be difficult for DoD employees to quickly identify a person moving about our camps and ensure the individual is authorized to be here. This measure will make it easier to identify if a person is or is not authorized access. Persons not displaying proper identification will be stopped and positively identified.

Off-duty military personnel, DoD civilians and contractors wearing civilian clothes provide an opportunity for unauthorized personnel to blend into their surroundings and go unnoticed. Displaying proper identification allows for personnel to quickly, visually identify a person and determine if they are authorized to be in a specific area or not.

When in uniform, military personnel and DoD civilians are excluded from the requirement because the individual can be identified by their name tapes. The physical fitness uniform does not identify the individual. Therefore, servicemembers in the physical fitness uniform are to wear their CAC displayed.

Both armbands and hanging wallets with clear view panels are permitted. The identification must be displayed between the waist and chest level.

This policy will be enforced while on all ASG-Kuwait installations. It does not apply to any of the above mentioned individuals while off post.

## Just One Question...

**What is your favorite cartoon character and why?**



**"Batman, although he's a good guy he has somewhat of a dark past."**

Petty Officer 1st Class Philip Howard  
Safety Supervisor  
Naval Mobil Construction Battalion  
Spencer, W.Va.



**"My favorite is Spongebob. He's great."**

Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Connelly  
Construction Inspection NCOIC  
386th Expeditionary Mission  
Support Group  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



**"Superman because he can overcome almost any obstacle."**

Staff Sgt. Ricky Petteway  
3rd COSCOM Liaison Officer  
282nd Quartermaster  
Snow Hill, N.C.



**"Spiderman because unlike all heroes, he wishes not to be at times, and then at times he loves it, kind of like how all military members feel."**

Airman 1st Class Raul Lezcano  
Combat Convoy Transport  
424 Medium Truck Detachment  
Melbourne, Fla.



**"Jiminy Cricket since birth because he taught my generation to always use your conscience."**

Sgt. Eric Jude Minogue  
Electronic Warfare Officer  
Joint Logistics Task Force 57th  
Transportation Battalion  
Peru, N.Y.

## Hometown Hero

**Petty Officer 1st Class  
Arnie C. Bernales**

Bernales' job is to ensure quality controls are maintained.

**Talks about what he misses about his hometown, Fairfield, Calif.**

**"I miss the atmosphere - a little town environment. I miss the wide open fields of crops."**







# U.S. Army Chaplains Corps



The heritage of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy reaches far back into the dim recesses of history. In times of turmoil, trouble, and terror mankind always looks to religion and religious figures for comfort. War is no exception. Both ancient and modern societies have turned to religion in periods of conflict. Communities always have extended the comfort of religion to those serving in the heart of battle. From what we know of societies prior to written history, it is likely that priests and other religious figures petitioned gods and spirits for victory in war.

The Old Testament often refers to priests accompanying troops into battle. “And it shall be when ye are come nigh unto the battle,” states Deuteronomy 20:2-4, “that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people.” Another well-known example is found in Joshua 6:2-5. In this passage, seven priests, each carrying a ram’s horn, march around the walls of Jericho daily for six days. They are followed by other priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant and finally the troops. On the seventh day, the procession marched around the city seven times while the priests blew the horns. After the sound of the horns, the troops shouted, whereupon the walls collapsed and the city was taken.

The modern chaplaincy’s roots are essentially medieval Catholic in origin. The Council of Ratisbon (742 AD) first officially authorized the use of chaplains for armies, but prohibited “the servants of God” from bearing arms or fighting. The word chaplain itself also dates from this period. A fourth century legend held that a pagan Roman soldier called Martin of Tours encountered a beggar shivering from the cold and gave him part of his military cloak. That night he had a vision of Christ dressed in the cloak. As a result, Martin was converted to Christianity. He devoted his life to the church, and after his death was canonized. Martin of Tours later became the patron saint of France and his cloak, now a holy relic, was carried into battle by the Frankish kings. This cloak was called in Latin the “cappa”. Its portable shrine was called the “capella” and its caretaker priest, the “cappellanus”. Eventually, all clergy affiliated with military were called “capellani,” or in French “chapelains,” hence chaplains.

## Unit Ministry Teams

**Camp Arifjan Chapel 430-1364/1366**

**LSA Chapel 859-1363/1215**

**Camp Buehring Chapel 828-1129/1746**

**Camp Virginia Chapel 832-2156**

**Camp Navistar Chapel 844-1143**

**Camp Patriot Chapel 839-1076**

**SPOD 825-1232**